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FROM WASHINGTON

LINEUP IN CONGRESS

By ELIZABETH SASULY

bill will be in committees. Therefore the make-up of key committees is necessary information in preparing for the fight.

At this writing Republican and Democratic party caucuses have completed their selections for Senate committees. In the House, the Democrats are still debating who will be placed where, so the exact lineup is not certain. This article will analyze the balance of forces in a few of the most important Senate committees and the probable structure of the Labor Committee in the House. In the next issue of FTA NEWS we wil' have the complete story.

Labor's greatest concern is with the 13 man Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare which will consider anti-labor, minimum wage and other vital legislation. Republican boss of the Senate, Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), who is a chairman of this committee, will face several of labor's friends: Elbert Thomas (D., Utah), James E. Murray (D., Mont), and Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), plus Sen. Lister Hill (D., Ala.) who voted against the Case Bill, and two Republicans, Wayne Morse (Ore.) and George D. Aiken (Vt.) who have voted fairly consistently with labor.

This gives a total of six votes out of 13 which can, with the right kind of work on our part, be lined up. On the other side there are five whose record has been almost 100% anti-labor: Taft, Ball (R., Minn), Smith (R., N. J.), Donnell (R., Mo.), Ellender (D., La.), plus a new man, Jenner (R., Ind.) who does not look too good.

If this six to six lineup takes place, Governor Thomas Dewey's committee, will be squarely on the spot.

A vote against labor by Ives would make it clear to everyone that Dewey's pious remarks about being for labor mean nothing Governor Dewey wants to be President and the people of New York can exert tremendous pressure to get the right kind of votes out of Ives. The lineup in this committee offers us an opportunity for a fight of great political significance.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was bad under the chairmanship of poll-taxer Tom Connally (D., Tex.) last year. It is worse this session because Senator Pepper (D., Fla.), the one man who spoke out for peace, was booted off by reactionary Democrats. Vandenberg (R., Mich.), as chairman, will merely continue directly the policies which Connally carried out for him before.

The Finance Committee which handles tax legislation has lost a couple of progressive members. But its present chairman, Sen. Eugene D Millikan (D., Colo.) is cut out of the same cloth as Sen. Walter George (D., Ga.) who fought Roosevelt and carried through a program of relief for the rich while he headed the committee. Its general composition is pretty much the same as in the last Congress.

Labor's job here is to expose the Republican tax steal which would give a crumb to the workers and the works to the bosses and make the fight for a decent tax program part of the wage fight. The Finance Committee needs to hear the stories of hundreds of working people appearing before it in person and find out what the millions back home have seen through their phoney tricks and won't take it.

The Labor Committee in the House, which will be headed by Rep. Fred Hartley, arch-reactionary from New Jersey instead of to Rep. Welch (R., Calif.) who was in line for the job.

Welch is one of our best and most experienced congressmen. He carried a big load in the fight for the original Wage Hour Act and has always been on hand to stop anti-labor bills. As soon as the Republicans got control of the House, then gave him the works

On the Democratic side of this committee, it is fairly certain that Mary Norton (N. J.) and Gus Kelley (Pa.) will continue. Both have long pro-labor histories. Further analysis of this committee must await final appointments by both parties.

(To be continued)

Organizers' Permit Fee Held Illegal

Cities cannot legally require labor union organizers to take out special licenses, the city attorney of Madison, Ga., declared recently, according to the CIO Organizing Committee.

His opinion was rendered at the trial of Grace Mullins, CIO organizer who was arrested for violating an ordinance requiring union organizers to pay a $100 license fee.

The Madison attorney interrupted proceedings to say he believed the ordinance unconstitutional under Georgia and Federal law. The charge against Miss Mullins was dismissed.

AS CONGRESS BEGINS

As the 80th Congress opens formally on January 3, gets into full swing on Monday, January 6, the labor movement faces a fight for its freedom against the restrictive legislation which will be pushed.

Here are some issues on which you can expect the first battles:

WAGE STEAL PLANNED

Following the Mt. Clemens Pottery Decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, unions throughout the country filed suits to obtain double damages for workers who have not been getting paid for travel-time, make-ready time, etc., due them under the Wage-Hour Law. Violations by employers go back, in some cases, to 1938 when the law was passed, and damages, consequently, amount to quite a figure.

Employer stooges in Congress are trying to put across one of the crudest steals of all time by proposing a law to cancel the bosses' debts. An attempt will be made to limit the time for which money may be collected, probably to one year.

In the last Congress, Representative Gwynee (R., Iowa), introduced such a bill. It passed the House with the period set at two years, passed the Senate with a 3-year limitation, but never became law. Reps. Gwynne, Michener and Hoffman (R., Mich.) have announced they will press for immediate enactment of a similar bill. They will attempt to cut off committee hearings and rush it through in a few days.

No legislation can constitutionally invalidate suits already filed, but damages under new suits could be limited to one year as of the effective date of such a law—it passed. Therefore, all FTA suits which have not yet been filed should be filed immediately.

You will be kept informed of the day-to-day progress of this extremely important legislation and the action necessary to fight it. FTA Congressmen who are members of the House Judiciary Committee which will take up this bill are: Gwynne, Gorski (D., Ill.); Reed (R., Ill.); Springer (R., Ind.). Locals affected please take note and communicate with them

RENT CONTROL

An all-out fight can be expected to (1) remove rent ceilings completely [illegible] on which it is possible to obtain the widest support of all community groups. Every local should work with other groups on a program to set up "Save Rent Control" committees, which should have two jobs:

1. Mass action to prevent evictions.
2. Prepare for possible rent strikes as a means of exerting pressure on Congress and saving the people's homes.

ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION

The exact shape of the much-publicized anti-labor proposals to be introduced will develop in the first week of the 80th Congress. The Republican labor strategy committee, composed of Senator Taft (R., Ohio), new chairman of the Senate Labor & Public Welfare Committee; Senator Ball (R., Minn.) and Sen. Smith (R., N.J.) will come forward with its "moderate" proposals within a few days.

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President Donald Henderson shown at the installation of Local 22's new officers. They are (seated, l. to r.) Willie Grier, Treasurer; Robert Black and W. Clark Sheppard, co-chairmen; and Etta Hobson, financial secretary. (Standing, l. to r.) John H. Miller, vice-chairman; President Henderson; Crawford Shelton, vice-chairman; and Viola Brown, secretary. Not shown is vice-chairman Clyde Watts.

FTA Wins 2 By 2 to 1

FTA scored two more National Labor Relations Board election victories recently. At the Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., in Greenwood, Mississippi, the vote was 54 for FTA to 21 for no union.

Workers at the Jenkins Tobacco Co., Greenville, Tenn., voted 202 for FTA to 97 for no cnion.

CIO WINS 291 NLRB VICTORIES IN SOUTH

The CIO'S southern organizing campaign has resulted in 291 NLRB election victories since the drive began in May, southern organizing director Van A. Bittner declared here in a year-end summary.

The organizing committee, he said, has conducted membership campaigns among workers in more than 550 southern industrial plants, won 291 elections and lost 54. There are 200 petitions for certification still pending with the board.

Bittner said the figures do not represent all CIO election victories since a number of international unions were conducting their own organizing drive when the committee was set up, and these unions won several elections which were not included in the organizing committee's total.

Besides this, he said, "there has been a sizable growth in the membership of many unions that have long been in existence. Many plants with which the CIO has contracts have expanded operations during the past six months—and along with the expansion went an increase in union membership."

The CIO, he said, has also signed up "sizable groups" of members in industrial plants for which no petitions have yet been filed.

FTA VETS DON'T SCARE —EVEN IN BILBO-LAND

Threats of being dumped in the river don't scare FTA veterans in Greenwood, heart of Bilbo-land, according to Mississippi Regional Director Larry Larsen. Writing to FTA News this week on the Buckeye Oil Co. election, which FTA won, Larsen says:

"The election victory at the Buckeye plant was a hard one. The workers have been organizing that plant for the past four months.

"This is the first CIO union in the city of Greenwood and all kinds of propaganda of AFL and [illegible] returned here from Washington, D. C., untandem, Chamber of Commerce and other anti-CIO elements to keep them from joining CIO. I attended a couple of meetings with these people and this is the story they told me of a young veteran who spent three and a half years fighting fascism in Europe:

"A group of white hoodlums came to this young veteran's house one night and said if he continued organizing for the CIO he would be found at the bottom of the river.

"There were about 15 or 20 of them in all. They all came in cars and their license plates were covered with rags so nobody could identify them.

"This young veteran, a Negro, told them simply that he had given three and a half years in service to eliminate fascism, to give people the right to organize into unions of their own choosing and that he was going to organize as long as he was alive, and if they wanted to dump him in the river to go right ahead because someone else would take his place. When this group saw that they could not scare him or the people like him, they were left alone.

"The election in that plant resulted in 54 for FTA and 21 against it. Some of the people who voted against the union have [illegible] and were afraid to ask the people around because during the day of the election the heat put on the workers was terrific.

"You can well imagine the pressure that was put on these 80 workers in a town like Greenwood, Miss., which is one of the strongholds of Bilbo and Rankin, but the workers broke through and brought in the CIO.

"This is not a unique case. It happens in all of the towns of Mississippi where the workers, both white and Negro, have been working for years at 35 and 40 cents an hour. They are determined to join CIO no matter what the cost."

Stories like this help to explain why FTA-CIO is at the head of all unions in organizing in the South.

VETERAN'S RIGHTS DENIED

In a case just decided by a federal district court in California, a veteran sought to be restored to his former job as salesman of his company's products in his former territory. He had exercised his own discretion as to when and in what manner his work was to be done and he was responsible to the company only for results. He was paid on commission and maintained his own sales office, paying his own expenses.

The court held he was not entitled to reinstatement since he was an independent contractor rather than an employe (Brown v. Sunbeam Furniture Co.).

States Can't Freeze Portal Pay—U.S. Court

Claims for retroactive portal-to-portal pay received a tremendous boost here when a U. S. district court ruled unconstitutional a Wisconsin law imposing a 2-year limitation on claims arising under federal statutes.

The case arose from the suit for back wages brought by John Kampe against the Michael Yundt Co. of Waukesha. Kampe is seeking pay under the wage-hour act for 1,715 overtime hours at the rate of time-and-a-half for work performed between June, 1942 and March, 1946.

The company contended that under a Wisconsin law passed in August, 1945, Kampe could not go back more than two years in his suit, which is pending trial. The wage and hour and public contracts divisions of the Dept. of Labor entered the case as friends of the court, maintaining that the Wisconsin law was unconstitutional.

Judge F. Ryan Duffy upheld their contention, ruling that "a state statute may not discriminate against rights arising under federal laws."

Several states either have, or are reported considering similar laws in an effort to curb employers' liabilities in suits for back portal-to-portal pay which have recently been instituted as the result of a ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Mt. Clemens Pottery case.

Such suits already total more than $615 million and may eventually amount to several billion, it is believed.

Civic Groups Unite To Fight Winston Terror

Representing over 15,000 Negro citizens of Winston-Salem, N. C., 75 leaders of veterans, labor, church and civic organizations met recently to organize full support for the striking laundry workers.

The strike began last October, when 500 workers, organized by the International Fur and Leather Workers Union-CIO, walked out of five laundries in protest against 27c and 30c an hour wages and for decent working conditions and union recognition.

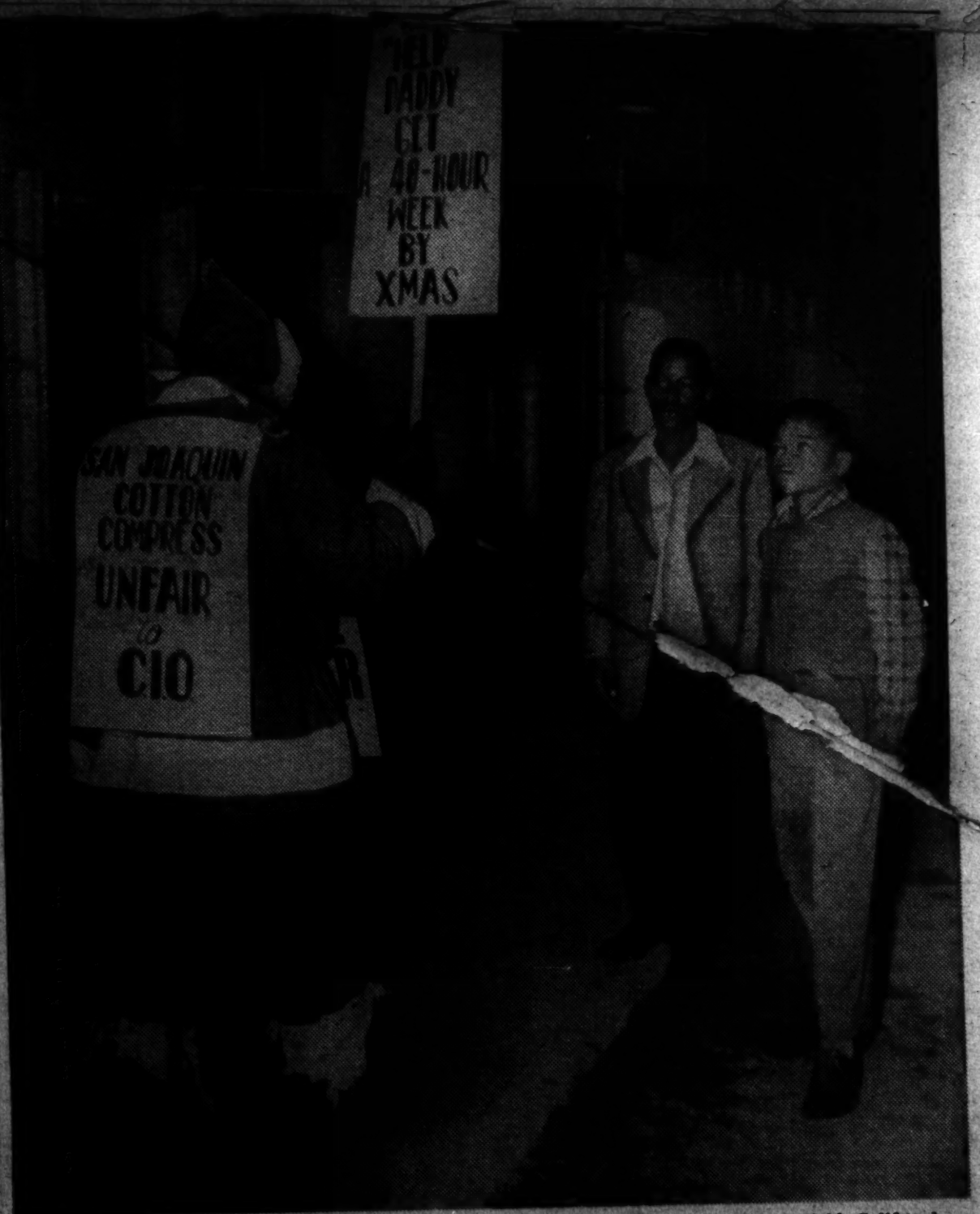
Since then, a total of 13 strikers were arrested and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 30 days to 18 months. The union has charged that the bail and sentences were excessive.

Intimidation of the striking laundry workers occurred within a few weeks following the sentencing of four FTA strikers arrested on the leafhouse picket line.

IFLWU Organizer John Russell pointed out that in North Carolina there is no State Labor Relations act and no Wage and Hour act to protect workers employed by firms not engaged in interstate commerce. He described the union's efforts to obtain peaceful collective bargaining, the lockouts and firings by the bosses which forced the workers to strike, police brutality, arrests, and the action of laundry employers to keep the union out.

The conference set up a continuations committee to carry out plans for boycotting the struck laundries, strike relief, prosecution of the court case, and mass meetings to arouse the widest support for the strikers.

Among those elected to the committee were: Robert Black, co-chairman of FTA Local 22; C. C. Kellem of the NAACP; Rev. Kenneth Williams, American Veterans Committee; and Rev. Edward Ghoulson, Civic Progressive League.



Besides his other duties, Santa Claus turned up on Local 272's picketline at Bakersfield, Calif., where he helped strikers win a union shop and a 17c increase, plus other gains. Xmas day was quite an affair out Bakersfield way, for Intl. Organizer Hursel Alexander and his wife also received a baby girl.

MAP ALASKA UNITY

By Wendell Phillips, Jr.

Girding for their annual fight with the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., all unions working in the Alaska salmon canneries have formed a joint committee in an attempt to bring their combined pressure to bear to insure the rapid signing of agreements containing adequate wage increases and improved working conditions.

In response to an invitation from FTA-CIO these unions, AFL, CIO and independent sent delegates to form a Joint Committee of Alaska Fishery Unions and got down to a discussion of what could be done to bring their united strength to bear against the employer.

At the first meeting of the committee it was voted unanimously to recommend to the component organizations that no organization should dispatch men to any district of Alaska until all unions represented on the committee had signed contracts covering their membership in that district.

The unions working in Alaska have found through bitter experience that united action is vital in the salmon canning industry. Last year a similar committee was established, but as a difference of opinion existed among the member unions as to whether their "war-duration" contracts had expired united action could not be obtained.

As a result of this lack of unity all unions averaging only a little better than ten per cent and because the strike action of the various unions was not coordinated more time was lost than if all organizations had struck together.

The committee has resolved not to allow the employer to play one organization off against another and that this year each union will support the demands of all unions.

Members of the committee are FTA Locals 7, 222, 237, 251, 264 and 269, IAM Hope Lodge 79, ACA-CIO, IFAWA-CIO, AFU-CIO, District Council of Carpenters, AFL and UFU-CIO.

It's HR 7 Again

WASHINGTON (FP) — For the third consecutive term of Congress, the anti-polltax bill has been introduced by Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.) and has for the third time been designated as HR 7.

In each of the previous sessions, the bill won through to passage in the House, only to be killed in the Senate by filibustering tactics of polltax Democrats.

Marcantonio's bill this time was referred to the new committee on House Administration. He plans to help organize a bipartisan group to press for early committee approval in order to speed the measure again onto the floor.

The bill makes unlawful the requirement of polltax payments as prerequisite to voting in a primary or general election for national officers — congressmen, senators and the president.

BOSSES' GREED BEHIND 'PORTAL' HYSTERIA, CIO COUNSEL SAYS

The greed of the bosses for still more free time from their workers is behind the newspaper hysteria against the "portal to portal" pay suits now being brought in the name of millions of CIO members, CIO General Counsel Lee Pressman said this week.

The suits, in which thousands of FTA members have joined for back pay amounting to millions of dollars, are being filed under a Federal court ruling holding employers liable for time spent in walking from a plant entrance to the work place, changing clothing, make-ready time, etc.

Pressman's statement, which offsets the anti-CIO lynch spirit being whipped up in the employers' press follows:

"The decision of the Supreme Court in Anderson vs. Mt. Clemens Pottery Co. was handed down on June 10 of last year. In October of last year pro and con were presented to the Court.

"The case is now before the Federal District Court in which it originated for a determination of the amount of compensation due the employees pursuant to directions of the Supreme Court, and in the light of the standards established by the Supreme Court.

"The principal task of the District Court is to determine whether the amount of working time involved in the case is too trivial to form the basis of employer liability.

"Contrary to the popular impression which has been deliberately stimulated by wild propaganda, the Supreme Court did not impose a flat liability in connection with all classes of activity which it held to constitute working time.

"The Court explicitly ruled out trivial and insignificant work periods, and held that 'it is only when an employe is required to give up a substantial measure of his time and effort that compensable work time is involved.'

"This decision rests on no novel or unusual principles. It is based upon prior decisions of the Supreme Court as well as decisions of Federal and State courts throughout the country.

"There may be some groups in America who feel strongly that workers should be required to give up substantial periods of leisure to their employers without compensation. What these groups insist upon is that American industry enjoy a free subsidy of the effort of its employees.

"It is this insistence which forms the true foundation of the present frenzied and irresponsible attacks upon the Supreme Court, upon the Fair Labor Standards Act and upon American labor.

"This attack would be shocking at anytime. It is particularly shocking at this stage of the Mt. Clemens litigation, since the case is still before the Federal Courts.

"It is plain that employer groups in this country are seeking to generate an atmosphere in which it will be impossible for the District Court to give adequate consideration to the sound principles enunciated by the Supreme Court and to the merits of the workers' claims."

Powell Offers Anti-Lynching Bill

A bill to make lynching a Federal offense and punish not only actual members of a lynch mob, but also any officers or employes of a state or governmental subdivision for neglect of duty has been introduced in the House by Rep. Adam C. Powell (D, N. Y.).

Punishment is set at imprisonment up to five years or a fine of not over $5,000 or both.

The Powell bill authorizes the U. S. attorney general to investigate lynchings and it makes mandatory the payment of from $2,000 to $10,000 to the next-of-kin of the victim. The money would come from the treasury of the city, township or county in which the lynching occurred.

What D'ya Read?

What are you reading these days to keep up with events? The FTA Education Department suggests the following ammunition to back up your wage demands:

"A National Wage Policy for 1947" (CIO's Nathan Report). This report has been causing hysteria among the bosses because it reveals that manufacturing wages can go up 21% without a single cent in increased prices, yet leave profits at double pre-war levels. It is a gold mine of figures and facts on profits, prices and wages — blows to smithereens the NAM lie that wage increases cause high prices. Order from FTA.

A shorter report along the same lines is "Profits Soar, Highest in U. S. History" (CIO) can be ordered from the Education and Research Dept., 718 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Other publications include: "The Challenger," a comic book for young and old alike, designed to show how the fight for democracy is carried on. Order in quantity at six cents each from "The Challenger," 521 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

"Labor Unionism in American Agriculture"—a history of the agricultural workers' efforts to organize. Order from Superintendent of Documents, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, price 70c.

"American Workers Want a Labor Extension Service"—a leaflet about the campaign for federal funds for union education. Order from FTA.

"The Great Conspiracy Against Russia" — order from Boni & Gaer, 15 East 40th St., New York 16, price—60c each for quantity orders.

to

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of FTA-CIO

from

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PHILLIPS GOONS DRAW $25 FINE FOR SLUGGING FTA MAN

Eastern Shore "hospitality," served by a company-hired goon squad on Friday, Dec. 18, marked the reopening of hostilities by the Phillips Packing Co., at Cambridge, Md.

Organizer Al Maurer was the victim of an attack by three company hirelings, directed by a company boss, just outside the Phillips factories. He previously had been warned to leave Cambridge if he wanted to stay healthy. Two company union stewards were on the warning committee.

The attack was a repetition of one in 1945 when Bill Rix, a CIO organizer, was similarly beaten near the Phillips plants. Another such assault took place in 1937.

When Maurer's assailants were arraigned in Dorchester County Magistrate's Court, one of the defendants, Robert Dixon, testified he and two others, Emmett Young and James Kimble, were hired for $10 each by James Land to "do the job" on Maurer. Young and Kimble, neither Phillips workers nor Cambridge residents, pleaded guilty to the attack and were fined $25 and costs each. Dixon was freed when evidence showed he took no part in the actual attack.

Following the attack, Dixon stated, Land called him aside and said, "The man (who hired Land to hire the goons) told me you fellows didn't do a thing to that CIO man, and I should only give you $5."

Land is a notorious Cambridge politician and restaurant owner. He operates two buses used to transport Phillips workers. Land was named in 1945 as instigator and pay-off man in the attack on Rix.

Phillips employes have responded to this company campaign by flocking to FTA in vastly increased numbers. This in spite of the company's and company union's ruthless use of labor spies and every other means to prevent FTA from establishing a foothold in their plantr.

Largest unorganized cannery in the East, Phillips employs from 1,500 to 3,000 in its Cambridge plants and has at least five other, seasonal, canneries on the Eastern Shore.

Cambridge might well be named Phillipsburg. The Phillips family dominates the city politically and economically. In addition to the packing plants, Cambridge's only major industry, Phillips owns the city's largest wholesale and retail hardware store and the city's largest gasoline and fuel-oil distributing service.

Phillips' workers, under fear of punishment, are expected to eat Phillips Soup, feed their pets Phillips Dog Food, burn Phillips Vim Pep gas, split their wood with a Phillips axe, and decorate their homes with Phillips paint.

The present Dorchester County Sheriff is ex-captain of Phillips guards, and most other officeholders, Democrat and Republican, owe their election to Phillips backing.

Even the churches are not exempt from Phillips influence. Early in 1946, following a $100 contribution by Phillips to each church, the ministers joined to publish a statement in the local daily paper urging people to stay clear of the CIO. Topping this off, a signed statement from the company president, Col. Albanus Phillips, threatening to close his Cambridge plants in event of a CIO victory, was read from some of the pulpits.

PLANTERS PEANUTS

EDDIE MEAR
Pres. Local 17

GREETINGS

To All

FTA LOCALS

and

CONVENTION DELEGATES

from

LOCAL 17—FTA

Rochelle, Ill.

Makers of Del Monte Foods

Greetings

to the

1947 Convention

from

LOCAL 18

De Kalb, Ill.

Fraternal Greetings

To the International Officers

and all Locals in the U.S.A.

LOCAL 58

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Sends

Fraternal Greetings

LOCAL 186

Welcomes Delegates

to the

6th National FTA Convention

LOCAL 200

WHEELI[illegible] WEST VA.

S[illegible]mbers' greetings to the

[illegible]Convention Delegates

LOCAL 638

Lancaster, Pa.

Sends Best Wishes

for a

Successful 1946 Convention

TIME TO RAISE THE ROOF

By R. J. Thomas

(The following article was especially written for FTA News by R. J. Thomas, vice-president of UAW-CIO and of the CIO, and chairman of the CIO Housing Committee.)

Washington's Christmas tree this year held no presents for farmers, veterans, or labor. The biggest present went to the landlords and the mortgage bankers. President Truman wrapped up that gift when he pulled the chair out from under Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Expediter. He waved goodbye to Wyatt, who wanted to try to build decent housing that veterans and working people could afford.

Truman then turned over the control of housing to men who will protect the profits of the building trades and the interest rates of the mortgage bankers at the expense of homeless veterans.

The average veteran can afford no more than $5,500 for a house, or $43 rent. A fourth can not afford as much as $4,000 for a house. Nearly half the veterans wish to rent rather than buy.

Under Wyatt, the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program set new records in production of building materials and new housing. Of nearly 1,000,000 new units, nearly half were for rent, more than half for less than $40.

However, less than a fourth of the new permanent rental housing would be let for less than $40. Less than a third of the new permanent housing was built to sell for less than $6,000. The bulk of the housing that came within the range of the veteran's pocketbook was temporary housing set up under the Federal Public Housing Authority.

These figures show plainly that ordinary private builders were not able or willing to produce new housing in the veterans' price range in the quantities required.

The veterans' need is grave. In June, at least two million veterans were forced to live with other families or to move into trailers or rooming houses. Add them to the number of non-veterans living in substandard conditions and you have as many as 10,000,000 families. But statistics do not tell of the number of veterans who have postponed marriage, denied themselves the company of their children, or turned down for good jobs for lack of housing.

They do not tell of the miserable family quarrels, the dread of divorce, the illness and discomfort that arise in crowded living quarters. They do not speak with the emotions of the decorated veteran who earnestly told a housing official, "I wish I'd stopped a few Jap slugs."

Even at record levels, the housing industry is not building enough units to meet the nation's needs, particularly at prices that desperate families can pay.

One measure, which Wyatt advocated, was to convert housing swiftly into a mass production industry, to build houses like planes or autos. Industry had the technique, the materials, and the skills to push low-cost housing, high-grade houses off the assembly-line at a rapid rate, but it required government financial support.

This support was delayed and, when the show-down came, much of it was denied. It is still possible that assembly-line housing will find private backers or that government funds will come through gradually, but meanwhile valuable months— months of anguish for the homeless veterans—have trickled into the past.

The other measure which will house veterans is the measure that overcame wartime shortages: housing built by and for the people through their government. Government plans, government orders, government development of land, and government financing will overcome or reduce countless obstacles and wasteful costs. They will achieve enormous savings that can be passed [illegible] But so far, no [illegible] save for a mere 125,000 units a year provided in the Wagner Housing Bill, which still must pass Congress.

Truman tossed housing overboard because he did not hear enough noise from veterans and labor, particularly in the November elections. He will bring housing back on deck only if the outcry for decent housing makes itself felt.

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THE FARMER'S ANGLE

By Homer Ayres

Wheat is not only the timber from which the staff of life is constructed, it is also a political ferment that starts operating either when people have too few of the golden berries or when—in the case of farmers—they are told they raise too many, and go bankrupt.

The price of wheat as it relates to farm operating cost in the northwest has been the yeast that touched off past farm revolts and today this ferment is again liberated and at work.

Grain farmers of course know that in many places in the world people are starving for want of the wheat with which they are beginning to be plagued. Farmers are being told again that surpluses are piling up and the price will no doubt drop sadly. But inflation has skyrocketed farm living and operating costs. So there is an uneasy feeling again and farmers take another look at their hole card and wonder if they can't do something about it.

This situation is what brought Fiorello H. LaGuardia of UNRRA to the Twin Cities recently in response to an invitation of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Assn. on the occasion of its annual meeting.

The GTA is a gigantic farmer-owned cooperative grain marketing institution that handles around 40% of the total grain raised in the area. This year, as a monument to their steadfastness they were able to dedicate a new million-dollar office building.

LaGuardia told the farmers: "We want no swivel-chair farmers or professional politicians or spokesmen for the ticker-tape boys to arbitrarily decide the destiny of the American farmers." And the farmers ate it up.

He told the farmers that they needed the world Food and Agricultural Organization as a reservoir of food that would not only stabilize farm prices but would also solve the hunger problem and promote world peace.

The farmers heeded LaGuardia and will soon put a heat campaign on Congress to prevent the "ticker-tapers" from scuttling FAO and reducing it to a mere factfinding and statistical bureau.

The "Little Flower" also linked up the grain speculators with the "cookie pushers with striped pants" who operate the State Dept.

These Farmers Union farmers know that their interests are with people who need bread to eat and not with over-fed millionaires. People who have been dejected because farmers at times become victims of reactionary big-business propaganda would have received a new lease on life if they had attended the LaGuardia-GTA meeting. Great things will come of it.

'IRON CURTAIN' A PHONY, SAY UNION

A delegation of AFL and CIO unionists returned here from a 2-month tour of seven European countries, said they found no evidences of an "iron curtain" in Poland or other eastern European countries and praised the close cooperation they found between the governments and the labor unions.

The eight delegates visited France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Italy, Hungary and Yugoslavia in the course of a trip sponsored by the American Jewish Labor Committee, during which they distributed $100,000 in relief and rehabilitation funds raised by the committee. The money was distributed through the unions.

"During the entire trip to Europe," delegates said, "every opportunity was afforded us to see, to question, to converse with whomever we wanted, without any censorship or restriction. We found no iron curtain or restrictions of any sort in our investigation."

Delegates included Pres. Morris Gainer, Dist. 9, Bro. of Painters (AFL), Intl. Vice Presidents Sam Mindel and Joseph Winogradsky of the Intl. Fur & Leather Workers Union (CIO) and IFLWU Sec. Treas. Pietro Lucchi.

They said they found "the greatest degree of cooperation" between the unions and their respective governments. "In each country the trade union movement is officially participating in the government and has become the backbone of reconstruction and the extension of the democratic processes."

As an example of this cooperation they cited the strike of the French meat trust, in which the packers refused to sell meat unless the government raised prices. In cooperation with the government, the unions raided the stockyards and packing plants, seized the meat on hand and sold it to the people at government-fixed prices. The packers were then fined the cost of the meat they had on hand and had refused to sell.

The unionists said they were horrified at the evidences of Nazi brutality against Jews and other people, but were gratified to find that Poland has placed special emphasis on the fight against anti-Semitism and fascism.

During an interview Polish Premier Osubka Morawski pointed out that in Poland anti-Semitism is a crime equal to treason against the state, and the Jews are playing an important part in reconstruction of the country.

The delegates said they found the greatest unity in the European union movement, which includes representatives of all the various political currents.

"They have paid dearly for disunity in the past and they are determined to maintain their hard-won unity in the future," they said, explaining recent refusal of the French Federation of Labor to allow the AFL to establish European headquarters in Paris.

The unionists said the French felt the AFL was trying to split the European unions into two camps. They also expressed the hope that the American labor movement would become united "so that working people all over the world may reap the benefits."

The American Jewish Labor Committee, which is fighting against anti-Semitism both in the U. S. and abroad, is raising an additional $500,000 from U. S. unions, to be sent abroad with another delegation in the late spring. The delegates who have returned, meanwhile, will speak before unions from coast to coast to describe the conditions they found abroad.

Convention Greetings

LOCAL 25

From the 1200 Workers of the

CALIFORNIA WALNUT GROWERS ASSN., Los Angeles, Cal.
HUNT FOODS, Inc., Fullerton, Cal.
UNITED STATES INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS, Anaheim, Cal.
CONTINENTAL CAN COMPANY, Fullerton, Cal.
CAL-FOODS, Santa Ana, Cal.
ALL MEMBERS OF LOCAL 25

LOCAL 64

UNITED FISH CANNERY WORKERS
San Diego, Cal.

THE LOCAL WITH THE
BEST CANNERY CONTRACT IN THE WORLD

1—The highest minimum wage rates.

2—A contract clause prohibiting discrimination because of face, creed, sex or political beliefs.

3—A membership which has paid its 1946 organizing assessment 100%.

LOCAL 105

from the

UNITED CIGAR WORKERS OF LOCAL 105
New Brunswick, N.J.

MARY E. GODREY, *President*
MARY HOLENCSIK, *Vice-President*
MARY CHRINKO, *Secretary-Treasurer*
AGNES PALULIS, *Recording Secretary*
HELEN VIZER, *Sergeant-at-Arms*

Best Wishes from

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

LOCAL 150

FTA-CIO

For a Successful Convention

LOCAL 194

CHICAGO, ILL.

EXTENDS BEST WISHES

FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

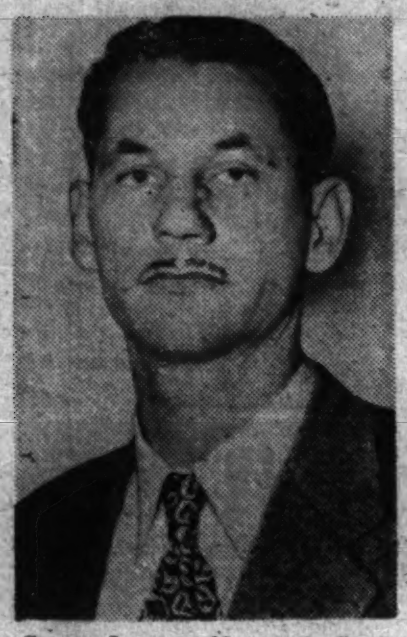
IN THE HISTORY OF THE FTA

'WHY I NEED A PAY RAISE'

The National Association of Manufacturers and their trained seals in the newspapers and on the radio are trying to pretend that American workers don't need a wage increase.

They try to make us believe that we're so well paid already that another raise would hurt us. They also try to make us believe that business profits are so low that the bosses can't afford to raise our pay or they'll go bankrupt and we'll all be out of jobs.

This is bunk, and they know it. Here's the proof that it's bunk, brought to you from rank and file members of ETA-CIO, who answer the question in their own words: "Why I Need a Wage Increase."



George Long, welder at the Buckeye Cotton Oil plant in Memphis, Tenn., and picket captain during the recent strike, says: "We got 10c last fall and a nickel before that, but it isn't anywhere near enough. I make $1.20 an hour and I'm having trouble making ends meet with three children in the family. And if it's tough for me, it must be really tough for the fellows who make less. We're losing ground instead of gaining, and I don't think any American working people are going to take it lying down."

John Harnish, member of Local 82, Modesto, California, put it this way: "I have been a cannery worker for the past 12 years, part of which was under the AFL. I work at Pacific Grape Products Co., where we like the CIO and the democratic way it operates. We have gained more under the CIO than with the AFL. We do need higher wages due to the rise in the cost of living. The cannery workers' wages have always been lower than other industries. Canneries have made large profits, due to the low wages paid cannery workers."

Sister Estelle Flowers works at the Piedmont Leaf Tobacco Co. in North Carolina and make $21 a week. Mrs. Flowers has four children and is their sole support. "Food takes about all of my wages," she says. "What do we eat? Beans, collards, corn bread. I can't afford milk for the children. My six months old baby has to have milk—one can of evaporated milk — 15c a can a day. It takes $2 a week for coal and that doesn't keep the house warm. What would I do with more wages? Buy the clothes the children need — more food and I could give more to the church."

Henry Bogle, member of Stokeley Union Local 53 of Hoopeston, Ill., writes: "The money we receive is not enough to buy the necessary things in life such as food, clothing, fuel and rent. I am a strong believer in labor work and am for the people who need the necessary things of life. We should have more money now to educate and care for our children so they may have the better things of life. We can overcome this situation by unity and brotherly love among all creeds of this our united nation, all for one and one for all."

Henry Williams, repair man at Federal Compress in Memphis, Tenn., says: "I'm an old compress man. I've been at Federal for eight years. Yes, we are making a little more take home than we did eight years ago, but we're really worse off. The $25 or $30 I take home on Friday doesn't go far with three kids in school and all the rest of it. Everybody seems to make money on cotton except the farmers who grow it, the men and women who pick it and we bale and ship it. We people who do the work ought to get a decent living too."

Main Points in CIO Pay Case

Here are the main points of the CIO wage case, as summarized in the report prepared by Robert R. Nathan for the national CIO. Remember these when someone tries to sell you the NAM line about industry not being able to afford another increase, or tries to tell you that all wage increases have to be passed on to higher prices. . . . . .

"Recent economic tendencies have brought uncertainty and instability, widespread fear of business losses, and the prospect of a sharp decline in employment some time during 1947.

"Never in recent years has the national interest so clearly required a major general increase in real wage rates.

"Public opinion has been lured into a false sense of security with respect to national wage trends by exaggeration of the extent and the significance of increases in straight-time hourly earnings.

"While there has been a sizable increase in dollars and cents straight-time hourly earnings, the increase in cost to employers of an hour has been much more modest. The increase in labor cost per unit of product has been even

"The average wee[k] of production workers in manufacturing have do[ne] dollars and cents—during the past two years. In[dustry] workers in the lower-paying industries ha[ve] weekly earnings during this period.

[Co]unt the increase in living costs during the past [de]cline in the real weekly earnings of almost all [wo]rkers has been very great. On the average, in all manu[fac]turing industries an increase of about 21% in weekly earnings—without [an] increase in prices—would have been required in October, 1946 [to] restore real weekly earnings back to the January, 1946 level. By [the] end of 1946, with the present trend of prices, an increase of about 23% will be required.

"The real hourly earnings of labor in all manufacturing in October, 1946 required an increase of 8.0% to equal the real hourly earnings of January, 1945. With present price and wage trends, the real increase required at the end of 1946 will be about 10%.

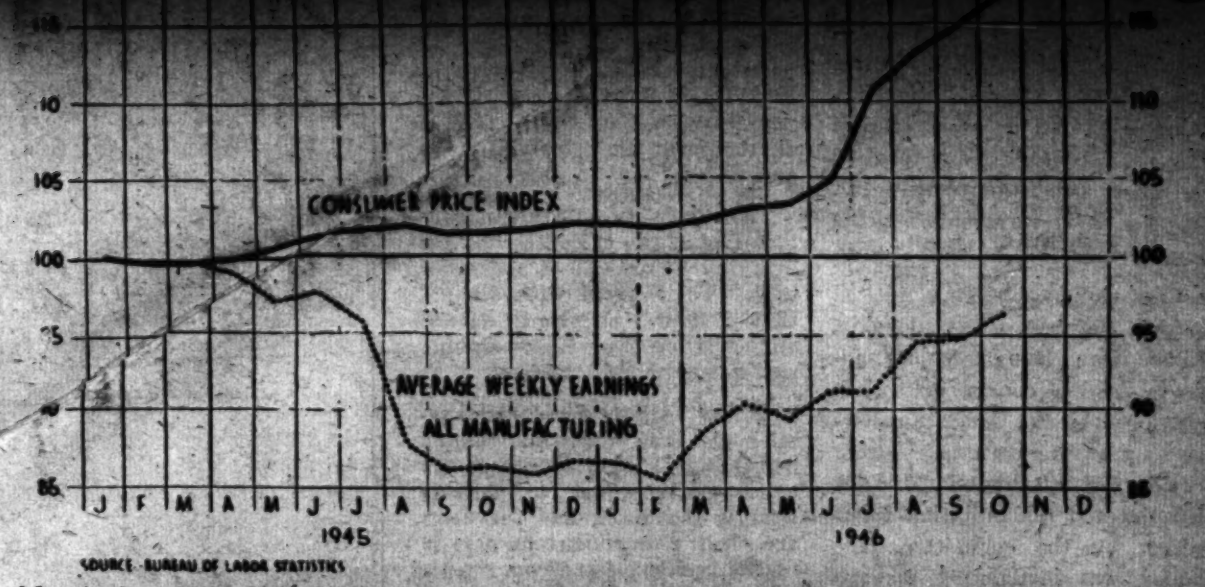
"At full employment, the present price and wage structure of American industry yields a level of corporate profits before taxes as high as at the lushest period of war prosperity. It yields a level of corporate profits after taxes about 50% higher than the war peak and utterly without earlier precedent in our national experience.

"Total corporate income has risen much more rapidly since 1939 —and especially since 1945—than income from wages and salaries.

"In spite of the increase in corporate taxation since the late 1930's, total corporate profits after taxes are now greatly higher in relation to sales than they were in the prewar period.

"Corporate profits are now especially high in relationship to net worth or to any other significant measure of the stake of ownership in business operations.

"The facts all lead to the conclusion that not only from the worker's point of view but also for the benefit of the whole economy a further substantial wage increase without a general price increase is possible, justifiable and essential."



And here's the cold statistics of the situation. Chart taken from CIO Nathan report shows how the cost of living (upper line) has gone way ahead of average weekly earnings (lower line).

THE STATE OF OUR UNION

The labor movement of the U.S. today holds a key position in the movement of world history. It holds the key to a future which contains but two alternatives; one, peace and security, the other, economic collapse and war.

As has been true since before World War II, the basis of future world relations—whether we shall have peace or war—lies in the relations between the two strongest world powers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

This was recognized during the course of World War II. Under the war and postwar policy of big power unity laid down by Franklin D. Roosevelt, this fact received official recognition.

It was further confirmed by the labor movements of the free world in the creation of the World Federation of Trade Unions, which was, and is, dedicated to the preservation of unity and to the ending of fascism and of the threat of war.

The U.S. elections of November 5 have not altered this situation. Despite the victory of Republican reaction, whose way was paved by President Truman by his scuttling of the Roosevelt domestic and foreign policy, the basic question remains the same.

What is the role of organized labor, and of the FTA-CIO as part of organized labor, in the face of this issue?

On every side we see the most reactionary employer forces [illegible] seeking to organize our economy and our governmental machine for dollar imperialism abroad and for dollar dictatorship at home.

The attack on labor, the "get tough" policy with friendly nations, the arms race and the preparations for new tariff wars all point up to one thing — a frantic race for super-profits at whatever cost to the welfare of this and other nations.

The main job that American labor faces now is to reverse these policies, both on a national and on an international scale. We cannot pretend that any one of them does not concern us. Must recognize that our own welfare is closely tied up with both domestic and world policies and events as they are now unfolding.

After World War I, U.S. labor under the American Federation of Labor leaders collaborated with the cut-throat world policies of big business. AFL leaders supported U. S. imperialism. They echoed employer hostility to the Soviet Union, suported high tariffs, advocated "isolationism," restricted immigration — and as a result, the workers reaped wage cuts and economic collapse.

The result was also the colapse of the organized labor movement in this country. Membership in the AFL dropped from five million to less than two million in the late 20's and early 30's. The open shop and company unions grew in its place.

The international labor movement also disintegrated in effectiveness and in numbers. Under the conditions of world labor disunity that prevailed, the workers were unable to prevent the fascist invasion of Spain, Ethiopia, China and finally of all Europe and Asia. The tragic climax of Munich and World War II was the end result of 20 years of world labor split.

Two main campaigns, both closely related, lie ahead of FTA and of all organized labor.

One is the strengthening of world labor unity through the World Federation of Trade Unions. The same AFL leaders who furthered the split after World War I must not be allowed to repeat that performance at this time.

Second—and no less imperative—is the fight against [illegible] for [illegible] purposes if not used as [illegible] injuries on one, is the foreign and domestic policies of this country.

This calls for a fight against dollar diplomacy, atomic bomb threats, trade wars and use of loans and food for world blackmail.

On the national scale, our union must fight for higher wages and for job security not only for immediate needs but also to prepare against economic collapse as well.

This is a political fight as well as an economic one. It is a fight to break the grip of big business on governmental operations that affect the lives of every one of us.

We must press the present Congress and the Administration to make good on pledges on such issues as polltax repeal, FEPC, anti-lynching and other matters of racial and national discrimination.

We must carry on a resolute campaign to end substandard wages wherever they are found in the industries under our jurisdiction. We must also campaign to end the numerous and severe legal discriminations against agricultural workers.

At the same time we take our place with other progressive forces in campaigning for housing national health, expanded minimum wage and social security laws, and in the drive against anti-union legislation.

The issue today is between security and peace or collapse and new and more terrible war. Unity of all workers in the CIO, in the U.S.A. and in the world is the key to victory.

This week is dedicated to the Bill of Rights of the U. S. Constitution, which guarantees the basic rights under which all unions operate . . .

. . . the first of these is the section prohibiting any law "abridging the freedom of speech or of the press" . . . this includes meetings, leaflets, the union paper and the distribution of union literature . . .

. . . next is "the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition . . . for the redress of grievances . . ." which is also a basic activity of unions, and one that has been upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court . . .

. . . the Bill of Rights also guarantees . . . "the right of the people to be secure in their persons" . . . which includes union members, strikers, pickets . . . even if the cops don't always agree with the Constitution.

FTA has grown by close to 22,000 members—an increase of 75 percent—since the 1944 convention, President Henderson writes in his report to the 6th National Convention opening this week in Philadelphia, Pa.

This growth, he adds, does not "reflect most of the gains made in the South during the past four or five months" since these gains, which add more thousands of members to FTA rolls, have not yet been transferred into steady dues paying membership.

At the same time, the number of workers under FTA contract has grown in the two year period by better than 33 percent, showing a growth of number of plants under contract from 548 to 743.

These contracts, Henderson points out, have brought more than $24,000,000 in wage increases since V-J Day. Close to 75,000 FTA workers have shared in these wage increases, or a total of nearly 90 percent of the membership. The average increase comes out to 17½ cents an hour.

This average, incidentally, is well ahead of the increases won in industries under FTA jurisdiction as a whole. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, wages in food and [illegible] and kindred industries went up an average of about 12½ cents. At that, close to 40 percent of all food workers outside FTA got no increases whatever. This figure brings the average for all food and tobacco workers down to eight cents an hour—less than half the amount won by organized FTA workers.

These increases, Henderson writes, have been won with a "minimum of strikes, but none the less necessary strikes." Chief among these were the hard fought six months strike of the American Tobacco workers and the equally militant Klein cigar strikes in New York, Trenton and New Brunswick, N.J.

"It is important that all of us recognize that with the end of the war and the launching of anti-union campaigns by employers, FTA leaders and members must be ever vigilant to defend their gains and improvements with the strike weapon as a last resort," he writes.

"Hardly a negotiation takes places today where the ability and the willingness of the workers to take economic action, if necessary, does not have an effect on the progress of negotiations.

"We can no longer rely on pencil pushers employed by Government war labor boards to settle the basic economic conditions between workers and employers today."

Turning to tasks ahead of FTA, Henderson's report calls for a renewed campaign to take "all necessary steps to end substandard wages in the food, tobacco and fiber industries.

"We refuse to let ourselves be treated as Grade B citizens any longer," he adds, outlining the need for new "demands for substantial wage increases."

New and renewed contracts must also contain 30 day wage reopening clauses, and must strive to end exemptions to overtime payments, to secure equal pay for equ[illegible] work, more paid holidays, double time for Sundays, etc.

A section of the recommendations urges a drive to end government ceilings on agricultural workers' wages and to include them in the wage hour act.

A further section of the report devoted to organizing reviews the California cannery election, where FTA won the first vote in 1945, only to have it illegally set aside by the NLRB, and where a second election won by the AFL is now under challenge.

The report also reviews the successes of the Southern drive, where FTA leads all CIO unions in numbers of elections of won and of workers involved, especially in the tobacco leafhouse industry where 25 votes have gone FTA and only three have been lost.

After reviewing the work of the international union departments—Research, Education, Legislation and PAC and Press and Publicity—the report concludes:

"The major problem facing the entire labor movement in the U.S. today is the problem of unified action against the general offensive of the employers.

"FTA must throw its active support behind this fight for general unity throughout the labor movement on common issues and problems throughout all our locals, in CIO Industrial Union Councils, throughout our regions and through the international union."

Greetings

At a special meeting of the membership of Local 19 in Memphis, Tennessee, dues were raised to $2.00 and a resolution was passed urging the International Convention to follow suit. "The bosses are spending more money to fight us than ever before—more money for our unions is the only answer," Larry Larsen, Regional Director said in presenting the $2.00 dues question to the membership. From the way they voted that's just the way the membership felt about the question.

US GROUP HITS BIAS VS MIGRANT WORKERS

"The exemption of agriculture from labor laws and related laws has resulted in a substandard condition for agricultural labor in general and migratory agricultural labor in particular," said a resolution passed at the 13th annual U. S. Labor Department conference on labor legislation held December 2-4.

The conference, attended by State labor dept. heads and union officials from almost every state, called for the extension of the Social Security Act, state and federal wage and hour laws, workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation laws to cover migratory workers.

The conference recommended the extension of unemployment increase in maximum weekly be compensation coverage and an increase in maximum weekly benefits to $25 for 26 weeks.

An immediate increase of the Federal minimum wage to 75c was urged as well as amendments to the Fair labor Standards Act to provide for equal pay for women; an eight hour day and 48-hour week, with special considerations for minors, shift differentials and employees on night work, etc.

A report on safety, health and workmen's compensation adopted by the conference stressed the need for improved state and federal safety and health precautions as well as the increase of weekly benefits payable under workmen's compensation laws.

Organized labor, state labor departments, church, civic and other groups were urged to work together "toward consolidating the interests and aims of agricultural labor with those of industrial labor."

SOLIDARITY PAYS OFF

By Alice Horan, Reporter

Local 207's solidarity with CIO members at the Kay Manufacturing Co. in Brooklyn, N. Y., helped to win a seven-week strike and a 20% increase recently.

All during the strike, they had the use of Local 207's headquarters, where they were served hot coffee and ginger bread daily.

Win $20,000

Some $20,000 in back pay was won by Local 145 at the Libby, McNeill and Libby cannery in Portland, Oregon, through an arbitration decision.

The arbitration award involved a 15c an hour increase in base pay for some 550 canners, peelers, and retrimmers, as well as restoration of the 1945 bonus for canners.

PROGRESSIVES UNITE

A new political organization entered the field last week when the Progressive Citizens of America was founded at a joint national convention in New York City of the Natl. Citizens PAC and the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences & Professions, and several other independent groups.

Combining the strength of the many community political action groups they represented in some 21 states, the 300 delegates dedicated themselves to a "secure, abundant, democratic America with equal freedom for all."

Number one plank in PCA's detailed legislative program calls for protection and further[illegible] the rights of labor.

A strong stand for full employment was voiced by the delegates in the preamble to the program for political action. "Economic depression," it said, "has in the past been hideous and costly. It was limited enough to be endured. Depression in the future will be total. It will crucify our nation and strike the world prostrate in the shadow of our defeat. The fight for full employment is clearly a fight for life. Our generation must make that fight —and win it."

The delegates were one of the most colorful and variegated groups to attend a political convention. The corridors and meeting rooms of the Hotel Commodore, where the two-day sessions took place, were crowded with trade unionists, housewives, lawyers, veterans, actors, writers, churchmen, students, scientists, artists, doctors.

Henry A. Wallace, former Vice-President, told the delegates that progressives "could capture three-fourths of the country's vote if we got all-out to get it over to them."

He underscored the apparently widespread conviction that PCA, if it is to be effective, "must move into every precinct in the country to educate the people and control the political machinery."

After analyzing the position of the two major parties, the convention, in its political action [illegible] that "we cannot rule out the possibility of a new political party whose fidelity to our goal can be relied upon."

Criticism of the two-party system also came from Wallace, who charged that what we have today is "a fake one-party system under the guise of a bipartisan bloc." To the rising applause of his audience, Wallace called for an active fight by progressives to win control of the Democratic party machine and if that fails, he indicated that a third party would be the only solution.

In addition to Wallace, Fiorello LaGuardia, A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and Archibald MacLeish, American delegate to UNESCO, addressed the convention.

Whitney, pledging the support of his organization, declared:

"We, the progressive people of the nation, are volunteers in a program to save America from the clutches of fascism and to protect the churches, our institutions of learning and the rights of all the people against the privileged few."

The delegates, in approaching labor's problems, resolved to fight for extending and strengthening the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction act and the Wagner act, and to repeal the Smith-Connally act and defeat any measures designed to curtail the rights of labor. The convention voted to support extending the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act, upping the minimum [illegible] of 75c and creating a permanent FEPC.

Locals Elect

By Bob Williams, Reporter

Local 115 in Depew, N. Y., re-elected the following officers for 1947: Brownie Amborski, president; Al Nichter, vice-president; Rosella Leininger, financial secretary; Bro. Walter, recording secretary; Guy Leininger, sgt.-at-arms; and Acey Nadon, A. Fisher and C. Ortner, trustees. CIO Field Representative Joseph Lovas administered the oath of office.

Negotiating committee members are: A. Fisher, Rosella Leininger, Brownie Amborski, J. Lewis and V. Foltarz.

PUT GOP ON SPOT

A challenge to the Republican party to make good its campaign promises to Negro Americans was contained in a memorandum left with Republican House Speaker Joe Martin by a delegation from the National Council of Negro Women, representing 900,000 members.

The NNC said it was giving the Republican party "an opportunity to demonstrate to America and the world their dedication to the principle of promoting respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex or religion.

Specific points proposed by the delegation were fair employment legislation; an act to guarantee the right to vote for all Americans unhampered by local voting restrictions; an act to provide good educational facilities throughout the U.S. without discrimination; and anti-lynch legislation.

BEST WISHES
FOR A
SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION
from
Local 56, FTA-CIO
of
Trenton, New Jersey

GREETINGS
from
Local 193, FTA-CIO
Collingdale, Pa.

Greetings
to
OFFICERS and MEMBERS
of FTA-CIO
from
LOCAL 57
FTA-CIO, RICHMOND, VA.
SOUTHERN BISCUIT CO.

ADELE ELLIS, *President*
WAVERLY MARTIN, *Vice-President*
GEORGIA KINGSLEY, *Secretary-Treasurer*
ELIZABETH (Larry) BROCK, *Secretary*
MAX SUSSMAN, *Business Agent*

NEW ANGLES ON PAY GYPS IN TROY, ALA.

By International Organizer Tad Vincent

A new twist has been added to the usual string of company "no's" during contract negotiations at an FTA cotton oil mill and peanut shelling plant in Troy, Alabama.

Wages of white workers would be fixed at 10 cents an hour less than minimum rates for Negro workers according to proposals of the Standard Chemical Co., and Alabama Warehouse Company in Troy.

This is the final stumbling block after six weeks of on and off verbal battling. The negotiations followed NLRB victories in October of 89 to 1 and 27 to 4.

The companies had a joint plan to smash the union. Under this plan they refused for a long time even to consider such basic rights as a grievance procedure, seniority, union security, and a listing of the various skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

During the arguing on these points some progress was made on other issues, and the companies offered to raise the minimum rate from 40 to 50 cents an hour.

But the log-jam on the basic issues was not broken until the companies were told some of the facts of collective bargaining by Labor Department Conciliator William Pierce, who was called in by the union. With his help agreement was finally reached, on all but the discrimination issue.

The company plan to deprive white members of the bargaining unit of wage benefits was thrown in at a late stage. This was done as follows: The companies re- [illegible] chairmen of the local, were fused to [illegible] minimum rates to night watchmen or women. About 22 workers are involved.

These are all white people and are the only white workers except supervisors in either plant.

FTA members at both plants have voted unanimously to reject the contracts unless all workers will have the same rights.

The membership at both plants, is anxious to sign the contracts but has voted to strike if necessary to win equal treatment.

Workers in Troy, in the heart of Alabama, know that any discrimination is a threat to the standards of all other workers.

The plant committees are led by Jim McKee and J. B. Shelmon of Standard Chemical and Will Copeland of Alabama Warehouse. Interntiona Organizer Tad Vincent is assisting the committees.

Florida Wins 15-20c Raises

Wage gains of 15 to 20c an hour, retroactive to November 1, 1946; six and a half holidays with pay; and improved sick leave and vacation benefits, were won by Local 42 in new agreements signed with the American Optical Co., and the Pan American Optical Co. in Miami, Fla., last month.

Vacations were increased to one week for one year and two weeks for three years. A week's sick leave a year with pay for each employee may be used for other purposes if not used [illegible] been completed. [illegible] apartments has [illegible] for injuries on the job or occupational illnesses are not counted as sick leave.

Laid-off workers are to receive 40 hours notice and 40 hours pay.

Members of the negotiating committee were: A. P. Grimes, Louis Nebel, and Clarence Tueting, assisted by International Organizer Edwin Waller.

Set 70c Minimum in Cotton Oil Plants

By Karl Korstad,
Local 19 Organizer

With the signing of a contract between FTA and the Swift Cotton Oil Mill this month, a 70c per hour minimum was established in the entire cotton oil industry in Memphis, Tennessee.

For most of the 1,000 cotton oil workers in Memphis, it meant a 15c an hour increase, 6 paid holidays, and one and two weeks vacation provisions.

The cotton oil plants, all a part of Local 19, include the two Buckeye plants, Swift, Armour, DeSoto and Perkins Cotton Oil Companies."

Hoopeston Talks Resumed Jan. 4

By Robert Collins, Reporter

Negotiations for FTA's first contract at Stokley's Foods, Inc., in Hoopeston, Ill., were started on December 17 and recessed by mutual consent until January 4, 1947. Regional Director Jessica Rhine is assisting Local 53 in negotiations.

LEAF WORKERS LIST GAINS

Jubilant over their success since FTA organized the North Carolina leafhouses, 150 militant delegates representing 25 leaf houses met recently in Wilson, N. C., to report on gains and map new progress.

Nine delegates from the leaf houses were elected to represent Local 10 at the FTA Sixth National Convention. Finance committees in each of the local's nine divisions are raising money for convention expenses, working jointly with entertainment committees to run popularity contests, curtain parties, suppers, singing contests, etc.

Contracts have been signed, unemployment compensation has been won for laid-off workers and fired union leaders have been put back to work delegates to the conference reported.

Robert Lathan, chairman of Local 10's joint board, reported that while it has been hard to get contracts because the season was nearly over, the militancy of the workers resulted in 15 contracts or stipulations generally raising pay 10c an hour—above the minimum wage-hour standard, and vacations with pay.

Organizer Ed McCrea said that the bosses had tried to get the workers to agree to year-round contracts, but the union got all agreements to expire before the next season opens.

Roy Moss of Lumberton and Louvenia Shavers of Goldsboro, reported that sanitary conditions had been improved since the union came in.

Leaf house workers in this area have always been denied their unemployment compensation during the slack season and forced to work long hours for low pay in domestic service. This year the story is different. A delegate from Greenville told how the people who wear their CIO buttons are being signed up for unemployment compensation at the government offices without question.

Mary Rouse of Goldsboro reported for the PAC committee on how to fight for unemployment compensation.

Plan were reported from the Education Committee for a series of Local 10 leadership training schools for each division starting at the end of January

In some plants union leaders have been fired, but delegate Emma Bynum of Rocky Mount told how the workers take care of that.

"I was not even a steward," she said, "but when I saw the leaders on the street, I got a committee together and we went in and told the boss a thing or two." The union leaders were put back to work.

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to our

LOCALS

And Their Delegates

to the

1947 FTA CONVENTION

●

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Greetings

TO THE

6th Bi-ennial Convention

OF

FTA—CIO

From the Locals of the

Mississippi Delta Region

We Pledge Ourselves

To Organize the Unorganized;

To Continue the Struggle Against the Economic and Political Oppression of the Reactionary Forces and Their Stooges, the Bilbos, the Rankins, the McKellars;

To Fight to Bring Political and Economic Freedom to the People of the South;

To Fight for a People's Peace.

Local 19, Memphis, Tenn.

JOHN MACK DYSON, *President*
A. B. BARTLETT, *Fin. Sec'y*
KARL KORSTAD, *Local Organizer*

Local 98, Little Rock, Ark.

ROY WILLIAMS, *President*
GEORGIA MORRIS, *Fin. Sec'y*
SIDNEY FISHMAN, *Local Organizer*

Local 283, Greenville, Miss.

JERRY MAYO, *President*
TITUS GREEN, *Sec'y-Treas.*

Local 309, New Orleans, La.

WILFRED SIMONEAUS, *Vice-Pres.*
WALTER WILLIAMS, *Fin. Sec'y*
YVONNE UZEE
ROBERT BLANCHARD
MELVIN MARTIN, *Trustees*

Local 102, Corinth, Miss.

McDONALD, *President*
HOWELL GELSTROP, *Fin. Sec'y*
A. C. KIRK, *Local Organizer*

Local 91, New Orleans, La.

ODELE McDONALD, *President*
REGINA BOZONIER, *Sec. Treas.*
JOHN SISAMON, *Chief Steward*
STELLA DaLILLIE, *Exec. Board*

Local 150, Nashville, Tenn.

JAMES H. PATE, *President*

Local 180, Vicksburg, Miss.

TOM STEWART, *President*
NORMAN BARRIER, *Fin. Sec'y*

Local 189, Leland, Miss.

WILL OWEN, *President*

Local 232
HELENA, ARK.

George Shaw, *Pres.*
James Sherrod
Kye Holmes
Trustees

Local 182
PORT GIBSON, MISS.

John Wyatt, *Pres.*

Local 195
HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

Samuel Collier, *Pres.*

Local 63
TURRELL, ARK.

Joseph Rodgers
Alberta Johnson,
Fin. Sec'y

Local 99
JACKSON, TENN.

R. Hicks, *Pres.*
H. Tomilson, *Rec. Sec'y*
P. L. Shorter, *Fin. Sec'y*

Mississippi Delta Council

LARRY LARSEN, Regional Director
A. A. O'BRIEN, Int. Organizer
PAUL NEWMAN, Int. Organizer
A. B. BARTLETT, Fin. Secretary
MARY LOU KOGER, Int. Organizer
WALTER BABBS, Int. Organizer

COTTON STRIKE WINS 17c RAISE, BACK PAY

A 17c an hour wage increase, a total of $9,000 in retroactive pay, union shop, paid vacations for 1,400 hours work a year, and a wage reopening clause, were won in the settlement of Local 272's strike at San Joaquin Cotton Compress in Bakersfield, Calif., according to Local 272 President Elijah Fifer.

The new increase brings Local 272's wage gains since V-J Day up to 32c an hour.

The strike began on Friday, December 20 and lasted through Christmas Day to December 30. Bakersfield CIO Oilworkers gave their support, while Local 272 members reached the Negro and white churches in the community to explain the issues in the strike.

Finally the company gave in to the Union's wage demands and a conciliator was called in to settle the other issues.

While International Organizer Hursel Alexander was assisting the strike on Christmas Day, his wife in Oakland gave birth to a baby girl.

CIO WINS 73% OF NLRB POLLS; AFL TRAILS AT 64

National Labor Relations Board election reports for the month of October, 1946, disclose the highest number of collective bargaining elections in the Board's 11-year history. CIO unions won 73 percent of the elections in which they participated as compared with 64 percent by the AFL. "No union" votes won in only 22 percent of the elections.

At the same time, the NLRB revealed an increase of 100 percent over the preceding month in employer refusals to bargain, and more charges of unfair labor practices than in any one month in the last eight and a half years.

In the 726 elections conducted during October by the Board, an average of 32 elections a day, 83 percent of all the eligible workers cast their ballots, and 74 percent of the ballots cast were for organized labor representation.

LOCAL 22 INSTALLS BOARD, OFFICERS

Following the recent election of Local 22's officers, in Winston-Salem, the new executive board was installed at a membership meeting December 7 (see picture page 3).

W. (Slim) Clark Sheppard and Robert Black, newly-elected co-chairmen of the Local, were among the first to join the union in FTA's early organizing drive at the R. J. Reynolds plant back in 1941.

They have served as stewards in their departments, on the grievance committee, and as vice-chairmen of the local since 1944. The local has taken them out of the plant to work full time for the union.

Frank O'Neal, Local 22 delegate to Southern Conference for Human Welfare, reported on the convention held this month in New Orleans. The three-day meeting, attended by 292 southern delegates, took up educational, health and political problems of the South.

The Local 22 Veterans Committee met on December 11 to discuss the housing problem. George [illegible], mayor of Winston-[illegible] the vets that 138 [illegible] been completed apartments had [illegible]ns. Following by the city for vete[illegible] Housing ing his talk, a Federal [illegible] Agency movie, "Homes for Veterans" was shown.

The vets discussed the housing situation and decided that the city should take steps to assure more homes. John Henry Minor, newly-elected chairman, presided.

A Christmas Party in honor of the striking laundry workers was given by Local 22 on December 21. Entertainment included games, music, dancing and a Christmas play written by the members.

LOCALS WIN INCREASES

Wage increases since V-J Day reached 22½ to 31c an hour with the new contract signed by Local 194 at the Standard Brands Co. in Chicago. New minimum rates are 97½c for men and 87½c for women employees.

Union shop; six paid holidays, with double time pay if worked; vacations of one week for one year and two weeks for three years; and a 7½ percent shift bonus; were other provisions in the contract, covering 150 workers.

Local 48

A recent wage increase won by Local 48 at the Kraft Cheese Company in Summitville, Indiana, brought wage increases since V-J Day up to 23c. New minimum wage is now 85c an hour.

The latest 10c increase, negotiated on a wage re-opening clause, was made effective November 1, according to International Organizer Kenneth Hirschy. The Local's contract comes up for re-negotiation next May.

Win 22c Raise

Wages at the American Preserve Co. in Philadelphia will average over $1.21 an hour as the result of a new contract won by Local 186 this week.

The new contract provides a 90c guaranteed hourly rate under an incentive plan, 7½c increase in the base rate, a 10c Christmas bonus for every hour worked during 1946, and five cent bonus next Christmas for every hour worked during 1947. The total increase is well over 22c an hour.

Other provisions in the old contract remained the same—union shop, guaranteed 32 hours work a week, six paid holidays, vacations, and checkoff.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Shop Chairman Walter Sammler, Leon Pitner, Joe Michale, Harry David, Chester Jasenski and John Cojak.

Moreno Elected

The California State CIO convention held last month in Santa Cruz, elected FTA International Vice-President Luisa Moreno and Local 78 Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister area president Holman Day to the State CIO executive board. Sister Moreno is also chairman of the California CIO Organizing Committee.

FTA is one of the five largest affiliates of the California CIO.

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FROM

United Tobacco Workers LOCAL 22

FTA—CIO

WINSTON-SALEM-NORTH CAROLINA

What Happens To Profits?

By JOSEPH CALIFF

(In the Dec. 15 issue of FTA News, Research Director Califf looked into the profits of FTA's industries and found them swollen beyond all reason. Here he continues the probe including a detailed table covering leading FTA companies.)

The effect of the end of price control shows up when you compare the financial reports of companies for the period after the end of effective price control on June 30 with the period before June 30. For example, the profits of 21 food and tobacco companies, which averaged 28% above 1945 earnings in the first six months of 1946, jumped to 86% above 1945 in the third quarter of 1946.

Cigar companies are a good example of this, since most of them raised prices substantially when price controls ended. For example, profits of the D-W-G Cigar Corp. in the first six months of 1946 averaged 25% higher than in the same period in 1945; but from July through September, when price ceilings were off, profits were 208% higher. The following are examples of the enormous jump in profits, after the end of price control:

Company	Increase in net profit in 1946 over 1945	
	6 mo. of price control (Jan.-June)	3 mo. without price control (July-Sept.)
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.	86% (year)	215%
Beatrice Foods Co.	101 (year)	169
Consolidated Cigar Corp.	7	83
D-W-G Cigar Corp.	25	208
General Cigar Corp.	35	110
General Foods Co.	5	45
Penick & Ford	4	127
Proctor & Gamble	9 (year)	37
Webster Tobacco Co.	53	140
Wesson Oil & Snowdrift	20 (9 mo.)	105

These figures reveal that there is no question as to the ability of business to grant the substantial wage increases which labor is demanding at the present time. They also demonstrate that the alleged big wage increases which unions have obtained for their members since the end of the war have not prevented profits from soaring to record levels.

Likewise, they show that the enormous price increases which have gouged the consuming public in recent months were unnecessary and the result of industry's insatiable lust for profits.

Because of the outrageous profit taking on the part of industry, the workers' share of the national income has dropped off sharply this year. From 1942 to 1945, wages and salaries were 68% of total national income payments. In 1946, however, wages and salaries stand to make up only 62% of the total, because of the greater share which is going to business as profits.

Company	Period Covered	Net Profit 1945	Net Profit 1946	Percent Increase
Allied Mills, Inc.	Year to Sept. 30	*$1,261,000	$1,837,000	46
Anderson, Clayton & Co.	Year to July 31	5,994,000	14,007,000	134
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.	3 mo. to Sept. 30	796,000	2,511,000	215
Beatrice Foods Co.	3 mo. to Aug. 31	696,000	1,870,000	169
Central Soya Co., Inc.	Year to Sept. 30	1,037,000	2,731,000	163
Consolidated Cigar Corp.	9 mo. to Sept. 30	849,000	1,127,000	33
Consolidated Grocers Corp. (Reid, Murdoch & Co.; Marshall Canning Co.)	4 mo. to Oct. 19	355,000	2,302,000	548
Cudahy Packing Co.	Year to Nov. 2	2,505,000	6,721,000	168
D-W-G Cigar Corp.	9 mo. to Sept. 30	309,000	630,000	104
General Cigar Corp.	9 mo. to Sept. 30	715,000	1,127,000	58
Harbauer Co.	Year to June 30	55,000	76,000	38
Hunt Foods, Inc.	6 mo. to Aug. 31/46 9 mo to Nov. 30/46	447,000	2,030,000	354
National Dairy Products Co.	6 mo. to Sept. 30	6,977,000	11,803,000	69
Penick & Ford, Ltd.	9 mo. to Sept. 30	907,000	1,369,000	51
Proctor & Gamble Co. Buckeye Cotton Oil Co.)	3 mo. to Sept. 30	3,777,000	5,172,000	37
Quaker Oats Co.	Year to June 30	5,401,000	6,471,000	20
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.	Year to Dec. 31	19,697,000	27,000,000*	37*
Spencer Kellogg & Sons, Inc.	Year to Aug. 31	1,621,000	2,994,000	85
Standard Brands	9 mo. to Sept. 30	7,190,000	8,821,000	23
Swift & Co.	Year to Oct. 26	12,304,000	16,395,000	33
Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.	Year to May 31	3,145,000	5,205,000	66
Universal Leaf Tobacco Co.	Year to June 30	1,443,000	1,707,000	18
Webster Tobacco Co.	9 mo. to Sept. 30	291,000	549,000	89
Wesson Oil Snowdrift Co.	Year to Aug. 31	2,820,000	5,765,000	104

(See next column)

PAY TRIBUTE TO TOLEDANO

(CTAL)—Homage to Vicente Lombardo Toledano for his work as President of the Latin American Federation of Labor was paid by members of the CTAL Central Committee at the close of its six-day conference here.

The Central Committee was moved both by Toledano's work and by the campaign of provocatory attacks made against him as a leader of Latin American Labor, in passing a resolution confirming the confidence of the CTAL in its President.

The Executive ratified "the confidence which the organization, since its inception, has had in Vicente Lombardo Toledano as President of the CTAL and asks him to continue serving, with his customary enthusiasm and recognized loyalty to the cause of labor and the people, in the post to which the labor movement has designated him."

"Give It Back, You Big Bully!"

Meet The GOP Attack

By Robert K. Lamb
Secretary, CIO Legislative Committee

(FTA News asked Robert K. Lamb, secretary of the CIO Legislative Department and Washington Representative of the United Steelworkers, CIO, to write a special article on the new Congress, which appears below.)

There has been a great deal of guessing since the November [illegible] as to what the 80th [illegible] — particularly Congress is going to do [illegible] —ranging all the way from rosy assurances on the part of some "liberal" Republicans that labor has nothing to fear to threats by some of the more forthright reactionaries that Congress will repeal the Wagner and Norris-LaGuardia Acts outright and set the clock back to 1932.

Actually, no one can predict accurately what the 80th Congress will do, because it depends on so many things besides the men who were elected November 5. It depends on what the people of the country say and do about the legislation they want; it depends on what the Congressmen think will win votes not only for themselves, but for their party's candidate for President in 1948.

We must realize, however, that the Republican victory last November represented the first major election success of reactionary forces in the U. S. since the election of President Roosevelt. These reactionary forces are familiar to members of organized labor. They are the big concentrations of wealth and power which own or control most of America's industry and trade. They recognize in organized labor a hindrance to their obtaining complete control. The only control they accept is their own monopoly control of American economic life.

Although they are active in both parties and are responsible for many of the weaknesses of the Democratic Party, they made the Republican Party the vehicle by which to ride back into power. It would be foolish therefore to expect anything but the stiffest opposition from the 80th Congress to labor's legislative program and only a demonstration of real organized political strength on the part of labor and other progressive groups will prevent the passage of some kind of anti-labor legislation.

Opinions vary, even among the proponents of anti-labor legislation, as to just what form the [illegible] on labor's rights should attack [illegible] visions of take. All of the prov[illegible] last session's Case Bill are scheduled for introduction. The outlawing of the closed shop is a very popular proposal with reactionaries, and Senator Ball is ready to introduce a bill which would eliminate industry-wide bargaining and confine negotiations to the employes of any given factory or plant and the management of that plant.

In his eagerness to destroy the labor movement, Senator Ball ignores the economic facts of life; for instance, the huge monopolistic corporations such as the U. S. Steel which operate on a nationwide basis and must be bargained with by a union of similar national structure.

Proposed amendments to the Wagner Act would give employers the right to petition the NLRB for an election — thus enabling them to ask for an election as soon as a union attempted to start organizing; and the right to "discuss" contract provisions with all their employes, which means the right to intimidate workers away from the union.

Further restrictions on unions' political activity are also being put forward. Congressman Curtis (R., Neb.), takes the prize for the most extreme of these proposals with his suggestion that it be made illegal for labor unions to spend any money to compile, publish and distribute the voting records of Congressmen and Senators.

To meet this challenge, we must start now in our own communities to build support for our program. The thought of the 1948 elections will be uppermost in the minds of most politicians, and if they see a movement growing in their own backyards around a progressive program, they'll hesitate to be labelled as the men who wouldn't give the people what they asked for.

It's not hard to find people who want better housing, a decent minimum wage, more social security, better medical care, a fair employment practices law, and a chance to live in freedom and dignity. It's harder to show them that they can get these things if they will organize, but it can be done.

Inside the union, after organizing to win concessions from management it's the next step to organize to win legislative benefits from Congress. Outside the union we need to start by showing people it's to their best interest to support the wage demands of organized labor

People who want to see labor win its demands won't be in favor of legislation to make winning more difficult. And from supporting our wage increases, it's a natural next step to support legislation for all the other things the people of America want and should be able to have.

Win Increases In Philadelphia

Wage increases were won by the workers of the Lummis Peanut Co., Penn State Cigar Co., and Rubin Co., all in Philadelphia, Pa., with the conclusion of Local 186's current round of negotiations.

Lummis workers reached a total increase of 17c an hour since V-J Day, while Penn State cigar workers totaled 15c an hour in the same period of time, according to Local Organizer George Ardelean.

The contract at Rubin's is the first, and includes provisions for a union shop; checkoff; paid vacations on a pro-rata basis; 10c increase; four hours call-in pay, etc.

THE HEALTH OF THE NATION

By the Hon. Claude A. Pepper

U. S. Senator from Florida

(At the request of FTA News, Senator Claude A. Pepper, who has fought for workers' health more than any other man in Congress, has written this special article for our paper. The article will appear in two sections, section one below.)

Workers, organized into unions, have come to regard the provision of high quality health services as much of a bread-and-butter matter as cash inside the pay envelope.

The American Medical Association asserts that as a result of charity, no one unable to bear the expense, is deprived of good medical care. The Food, Tobacco and Allied Workers, together with countless union and other groups, and millions of Americans in every walk of life, have given a clear answer to the AMA and its stooges.

The people are not willing to accept charity in any shape or form, be it the food on the breadline, the bundle of clothing ever so graciously given, or the disinterested medical attention at the hospital outpatient clinic.

If illness were to visit all groups to the same extent, the family with the small income would obviously be the hardest hit financially. However, illness is selective. The families with a low income are visited with greater burden. The National Health Survey, conducted 1935-36, the largest study of illness and receipt of medical care ever made, provides alarming facts. Here are some of the findings:

Families with low annual incomes had nearly 40 per cent more total illness, and 75 per cent more chronic illness, than did higher income families.

Chronic disability prevents some workers of all income groups from earning a living or even seeking work. Among low income families, the proportion of unemployable workers was three and a half times greater than that among families with higher incomes.

Illness among low income families is of longer duration than among other groups. Workers with low income lost nearly twice as much time from work because of illness as did the average individual in the higher income groups.

Such diverse chronic conditions as diabetes, varicose veins, blindness and deafness show disability rates from two to four times higher in the low income group than in the highest income group.

Acute conditions also — accidents, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases show great disparities between income groups. For example, the home accident rate among the low income families was nearly 40 per cent higher than in other families. Housing conditions were presumably responsible for some of the disparity.

The story has ever been the same. Families of low income have the most illness and they receive the least medical care. And the low income family spends a higher proportion of its income for sickness costs than does the family with a large income.

Many workers engaged in the food and tobacco industries live in rural areas. They are directly and constantly affected by health conditions on the farms and small towns of the nation. They are affected by the lack of hospitals, of doctors and dentists, of nurses, of laboratories. Daily they court the diseases which come from poor water supplies and insanitary facilities for waste disposal.

Rural areas are less well supplied with physicians than urban areas. Strictly rural counties in 1938 had only about one-third as many physicians in proportion to population as did urban areas. The shortage of physicians in rural communities is not due to less need for medical care than in cities. Studies made by the Farm Security Administration and other agencies indicate that the burden of physical defects and disability in rural areas is the same as, or greater than, in urban centers.

Despite this need, medical graduates have shown increasing reluctance to settle in rural communities. The burden of caring for rural patients falls increasingly on the older practitioners who, despite sometimes heroic efforts, frequently are unable to do the work demanded of them. The wartime shortages we have witnessed were merely sharper manifestations of this long-standing and steadily growing maldistribution of physicians.

(To be continued)

He says he's the labor relations counsel we've engaged...

TAX GRAB FOR THE RICH

By Eugene Cotton
Asst. Counsel, CIO

(Eugene Cotton, Asst. General Counsel of CIO, and authority on tax questions, has written this special article on the "20% across the board" tax cut proposed to Congress by the Republicans.)

A 20% tax cut for everyone. That's what's being offered by Congressman Harold Knutson, [illegible] chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the new Republican Congress.

It sounds simple. And almost fair if you don't stop to think about it.

It doesn't take much thinking, however, to recognize it as a raw tax grab for the rich. It's so raw in fact, that even some of Congressman Knutson's Republican cronies in the Senate have balked.

But Mr. Knutson is standing firm. That's his program and he intends to stick the Republican Congress—and incidentally, the people of the country—with it, if he has his way.

"Twenty per cent across the board," says Mr. Knutson. That's fair to everyone, says the Congressman who has been a leader in every soak-the-poor tax move during his long stay in Congress.

Fair? Let's see.

A worker with a family of four and earning about $45 to $50 a week pays in taxes the equivalent of about a week or two of his wages. His 20 per cent tax cut will save him about $10 a year.

A corporation executive earning $100,000 a year will get, as his 20 per cent tax cut, a refund of about $10,000 to $13,000.

How fair does that sound?

Let's look at it from another angle. That $10 tax saving for the worker gives him an increase in the amount he has left, after paying taxes, of about 4/10 of 1 per cent. That $10,000 to $13,000 saving for the corporation executive gives him a net wage increase of about 20 to 35 per cent.

No, it doesn't take much thinking to discover that fraud. In fact, even Mr. Knutson became a little worried about it. So he made a great concession to the American public. When he introduced the bill on the first day of Congress, he decided that the cut should be only 10½ per cent after you get past $300,000!

Incidentally, for the $300,000 year man, the net wage increase will be anywhere from 40 per cent to 100 per cent!

If Mr. Knutson feels that we're in a position to do some tax cutting, the CIO can give him some suggestions for doing it fairly.

Where is tax relief needed most?

I won't take space to repeat the sad story recently published in The Wall Street Journal outlining the "hand-to-mouth" existence of the $45,000-a-year corporation executive who has been forced to cut expenses to the bone by getting along with only four servants, only one Cadillac, and social and entertainment expenses of only $4,000 a year. His dues to his five clubs were a mere $1,500 a year!

I'm sure Mr. Knutson and the Wall Street Journal will forgive the CIO for not agreeing that this gentleman doesn't make out a very convincing case for tax relief, especially while we are still taxing every unmarried worker who earns as little as $12 or $15 a week and every married worker who earns as little as $25 a week.

If Mr. Knutson wants to reduce the nation's tax burden let him start by raising exemptions to $1,000 for a single wage-earner and $2,000 for every married wage-earner—with an extra $500 for every dependent.

With price levels where they are today, there is no excuse for taxing those who really can't make both ends meet.

The married veteran returned to a $25 or $30 a week job is worried about rent—if he has a place to live—and about the price of food and clothing, not about servants and Cadillacs. There are thousands of low income wage-earners for every one $45,000 executive. They are the ones who must have the money to buy the things the executive's corporation manufacturers if he wants to continue receiving his $45,000 each year.

What to do about it? Write Mr. Knutson. Write your own Congressman. Have your local union write them. Tell them what you think of the "20 per cent across-the-board" tax [illegible]

SCHOOLS HELD IN 3 FTA LOCALS

By Connie Anderson
Education Director

Some 200 stewards recently graduated from week-long after-work classes in Local 22, Winston-Salem, N. C., leaders and active members of Local 77, Sacramento, California, completed an eight-session, once a week evening class and some 25 members of Local 75 in Houston, Texas, spent a day at "school" there conducted in both English and Spanish.

Unanimous opinion of the locals is that such activity pays off in increased understanding of the work of FTA and the local union, and in determination of all hands to put their shoulders to the wheel to build the local.

"The classes were very enthusiastic with full participation by the students," comments Intl. Organizer Pat Verble reporting for cannery Local 77. "It is the unanimous feeling of all those who took part that they would enroll in the next class for sometime after the New Year."

Conducted by the California Labor School, the Sacramento classes covered parliamentary procedure, the history of trade unions in the U. S. and in California, and the problems facing trade unions at home and abroad. Cost of attendance was paid half by the delegates, half by the local.

The stewards' school in Winston-Salem, taught by Herman Schendel, Trade Union Director of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln School, ran day times and evenings to include stewards on both shifts at Reynolds tobacco and the other shops under contract with Local 22.

"The purpose of this school was to give the stewards a better understanding of their union and of their job as stewards," says Local 22 Education Chairman Moranda Smith — because the heart of the union lies in each department of solidly united workers, led by a skillful, militant steward. How to win grievances at the first step and to organize the entire department in active support of the CIO program and the [illegible] FTA-[illegible]gram was the theme of classes.

A full day of "soup to nuts" of the labor movement put in by members of Cotton Processing Local 75 included stewards' work, union meetings and political action taught by Mary and Bill Elkuss and Mrs. Frantz of the Highlander Folk School, according to Int. Organizer Jaqueline Nelson. Full discussion, running translations from Spanish to English and vice versa, and blackboard doodles insured lively sessions. Attorney Herman Wright led the discussion on workmen's compensation.

At lunch time the members gave forth with recitations of original poems. It was a wonderful day, they all say, and the burning question before breaking up was "when do we do this again—and with more time, for thorough study."

Win $80,000 Pay Raises

Over $80,000 a year in wage increases were won by Local 200 at the Augustus Pollack Stogie cigar plant in Wheeling, W. Va., recently.

Wage increases ranged from 10 to 23c an hour plus a five cent differential for night shift workers, bringing the minimum for men up to 81½c an hour, and 71½c an hour for women.

An improved vacation plan for workers with six months' to five years' seniority; time and a half for overtime and Saturday work; and double time for Sunday and holiday work, were other gains won in the contract.

Members of Local 200 negotiating committee were: Richard Reinhardt, President; Laura Carl, Secretary-Treasurer; Bertha Pisarcik, Mary M. Weidman, Martha Humes, Alice Jenkins, Lillian Conners, Goldie Pryor, Burnett Defibaugh, Ernest Huebner, and Nick Eisenhower. They were assisted by Regional Director Armando Valdes.

CORRECTION

In a story headed: "Win 30c Increase At So. Shellfish" appearing in the December 15 FTA News it was incorrectly stated that a contract had been signed for this amount between the company and Local 309.

The contract has not been signed. FTA News regrets the error in reporting.

WIN 85c MINIMUM

An 85c an hour minimum wage was established by Local 306 at the Western and Arizona Compress Co., in Phoenix, Ariz., following negotiations of a 10c an hour increase, according to Int. Vice-President Dixie Tiller. The increase is retroactive to August, 1946.

Newly elected officers of Local 270 in Lebanon, Oregon, are: Lorraine Goold, President; Ethel Gray, Vice President; Clarice Dibble, Financial Secretary and Business Agent; Bessie Caler, Recording Secretary, and Ed Duell, Sgt.-at-Arms.